

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/770,443

Examiner

Karen E. Toth

Applicant(s)

ENDO ET AL.

Art Unit

3735

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Charles Wendel on 27 June 2006.

The application has been amended as follows: In claim 6, "operation means computes" was changed to read --operation device computes--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the structure of claims 1-4 and 9, including, *inter-alia*, approximating the attenuation portion of saw-tooth responses corresponding to each blink in a tear evaporation profile, and plotting measurements against time using the function $f(t) = Ae^{-kt} + B$.

Refojo (US Patent 4461303) discloses an apparatus for evaluation of tear secretion comprising measurement of the humidity in the air surrounding the patient's eye; however, Refojo does not disclose means for correlating humidity measurements to the patient's blinks.

Yee (US Patent 6210000) discloses an apparatus for prevention of dry eye syndrome comprising monitoring humidity in the environment of a user's eyes; however, Yee does not disclose correlating the humidity to the user's blinks.

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the structure of claims 5, 7 and 8, including, *inter-alia*, computing the difference between before and after administration of artificial tear fluid, and plotting a detection value against time to form a tear evaporation profile.

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the structure of claim 6, including, *inter-alia*, computing the difference between before and after administration of artificial tear fluid, and plotting a detection value against time to form a tear evaporation profile.

Yamada (Diagnosis and Treatment of Dry Eye Syndrome from the Standpoint of Tear Evaporation, *Journal of the Eye*, vol. 7, No. 3, 30 March 1990, pp. 365-70) discloses measurement of tear evaporation comprising comparison of evaporation from untreated eyes, and eyes treated with artificial tears. However, no correlation or comparison is made comparing the same subject both before and after administration of artificial tears.

Yee discloses an apparatus for prevention of dry eye syndrome comprising monitoring humidity in the environment of a user's eyes and providing humidification to the eyes; however, Yee does not disclose comparing the rates of evaporation between treated and untreated eyes.

Art Unit: 3735

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

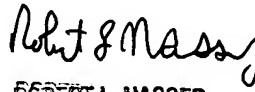
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen E. Toth whose telephone number is 571-272-6824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor, II can be reached on 571-272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3735

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ket


ROBERT L. NASSER
PRIMARY EXAMINER